

Narrator:

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Every 10 years in America, according to the U.S. Constitution, a full count of the U.S. population is made to ensure that Americans are fairly represented in the U.S. Congress. In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau again has the task of to get an exact count of the estimated 309 million people living in the United States. It seeks to include everyone: citizens and noncitizens, those with permanent residences and those temporarily in the country. No matter what their status, all immigrants are included in the population calculations.

Why is the census important? Population determines how many representatives a state can send to the House of Representatives in Washington. The more populous states are allowed more representatives and, by extension, more potential political influence. Each state has a minimum of one representative.

Another reason for the census is to draw the political districts so that they're of equal in size. For each person in the House of Representatives, the district he or she represents must include the same number of people as in other districts within the state. States often redraw their districts — both for the U.S. Congress and their own legislatures — based on the census findings.

The census also has a big financial impact. The federal government uses the census to determine how much communities will receive of more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year. These funds help pay for hospitals, job training centers, schools, and public works projects such as bridges and tunnels.

Census officials have acknowledged that many immigrants living in the United States without proper documentation may be afraid to have any contact with federal authorities. The Census Bureau tries to reach these people through advertising and in partnership with activists, ethnic church leaders and others who are trusted in immigrant communities. The census questionnaire is available in six different languages, and language assistance guides are available in a total of 60 languages.

The census questionnaire for 2010 has only 10 questions, which are about the age, sex, race and ethnic heritage of each respondent. This year, for the first time, an English-Spanish questionnaire was mailed to about 13 million households. Questions about religious affiliation are prohibited by U.S. law. Late in April approximately 700,000 census workers, or “enumerators,” will begin to visit households that didn't return the short questionnaire to make sure they are counted.

As the world's biggest football tournament begins in South Africa in June, many people wonder why in the United States the world's most popular sport is called soccer, rather than football.

In fact, soccer is the word for football in several countries around the world. Canada, Australia, World Cup host South Africa, and 2002 co-host Japan all use the term to varying degrees: Canada has the Canadian Soccer Association; Australia's national team nickname is the Socceroos; South Africa's top league is the Premier Soccer League; and Japan has the Japan Soccer Association.

Despite common perceptions, the word soccer is actually not American at all. The term comes from Great Britain, where "association football" was the common label starting in 1863. England is widely credited with inventing the game and formed its Football Association to govern the game and institutionalize the rules. Association football distinguished itself from rugby football, another popular sport, through its use of dribbling with the feet.

At the time, a game of rugby football was called "rugger." To differentiate between the two, association football became known as "soccer," an abbreviation of the word "association." As large numbers of immigrants from Great Britain arrived in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they brought the soccer nickname with them. The label was useful once American gridiron football gained popularity.

Today, the U.S. Soccer Federation governs the game in the United States. U.S. fans are already excited that the 2010 event in South Africa will be the sixth straight World Cup appearance for the U.S. Men's National Team. The team will face England, Algeria and Slovenia in the first round, which begins June 12.

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